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James R. Carselowex, Field worker,
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Interview with
Lois Margaret (Chamberlain) Miller
West Canadian, Vinita, Oklahoma.

My name is Lois Margaret (Chamberlain) Miller. I
live at West Canadian avenue, Vinita, Oklahoma. I was
born February 27, 1893.

My father's name was William Clifford Chamberlain,
born April 23, 1852.

My mother's name was Madge Goodykoontz) Chamberlain,
born Aug. 7, 1859.

My grandfather's name on my father's side was A.
Nelson Chamberlain, and he was the son of William Chamberlain,
both early day missionaries of the Presbyterian church, among
the Cherokees.

My great grand-mother's name on my father's side was
Flora (Hoyt) Chamberlain.

My grandfather, on my mother's side, was Hamilton Goodykoontz.

My grand-mother, on my mother's side was Margaret Goodykoontz.

My father, William C, Chamberlain was married twice. His
first wife was Lydia Ann Ward, and they were the parents of;
Flora Hoyt, Edith Ursa, Clara Emily. His first wife died June
28, 1882, and he married the second time, September 24, 1885, my

mother, Madge Goodykoontz, and to this union were born seven children, as follows; Winfred Clark, Lois Margarët, Milo Reu, Cline Lowry, Quatie Eulalia, and two sons, William Clifford and Lucien B. who died in infancy.

EARLY DAY MISSIONARIE .

My great-grandfather, Rev. William Chamberlain founded the Presbyterian Mission, located at Willstown, in Willa Valley, Alabama, March 28, 1823. He served at this charge, until 1839, when he moved to Illinois and died at Alton, on March 14, 1849.

My grand-father, Rev. A Nelson Chamberlain, was born at Brainard Mission, in Alabama, Nov., 29, 1821. He grew up in missionary work in the state in which he was born. He was equally fluent in both Cherokee and English languages, and on account of his unassuming manner and purity of character, he was greatly loved and respected by all who knew him.

He was married on December 3, 1846 to Dollie Eunice, eldest daughter of his uncle, Milo Hoyt. His wife was the grand-daughter of George Lowry, Assistant Chief of the Cherokee Nation at that time. He and his wife emigrated to the Indian Territory, where he became prominent in educational work. He served several terms as superintendent of both Male and Female Seminaries, at Tahlequah, and was one of the best interpreters that ever appeared before the National council.

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Like his father, he became active in missionary work, and was one of the first missionaries among the Cherokees, in the new nation.

TRANSLATED BIBLE
INTO
CHEROKEE.

In 1868 he left Flint district and moved further north, into the great wide prairie, where not many Cherokees had yet ventured to go. He settled on a farm in Cooweescoowee district, now Craig County, Oklahoma, at a place he called "Pheasant Hill", seven miles northwest of the present site of Vinita, Oklahoma. It was there he established the first Presbyterian Church, and also the first Presbyterian Missionary Society.

He also established a printing press on his place and translated several books of the New Testament into the Cherokee language, and was translating another book when he died with pneumonia on July 4, 1894; and seventeen days later his wife died with pneumonia. Both were buried in the church yard at Pheasant Hill, and the place became our family burying ground.

After my grand-father's death, his old printing press was donated to the Dwight Mission school, located about four miles north of Westville, Oklahoma, which was one of the oldest schools in the Cherokee Nation. The press was later placed

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in the Oklahoma Historical society, at Oklahoma City.

MOVES CHURCH TO VINITA.

Shortly after my grand-father's death at Pleasant Hill, the church which he established there was moved to Vinita, and became the First Presbyterian Church of Vinita. Our first church building was built at the corner of Illinois and Thompson street, and was recently re-modeled into a modern church building.

EARLY DAY RELIGION STRICT.

I have heard my father tell how very strict his father was in his religious work. The Sabbath was kept Holy, at his house. No member of the family was allowed to do any kind of work, and all of the cooking was done on Saturday, that was used for Sunday. My father said, all his brothers and he could do was to read the Bible, or sit and whittle.

There were four boys in the family, namely; William^W C., Robert, Beecher and Arthur. Beecher and Arthur preferred to read the Bible, while my father preferred to whittle. Robert was too small to do either, so he just visited from one to the other. My father would talk to him constantly, and he would get tired and go over to one of the other boys and

sit awhile. Finally he got up and said, "well, I believe I had rather be with a fellow that just jabbers, jabbers, jabbers, all the time, than to be with one who won't say anything."

There is a great lesson to be learned from what happened right there. Beeson and Arthur turned out to be men of great religious habits, and were pillars in the Presbyterian church, which their father established, all of their lives, while my father and Robert were never religiously inclined, possibly because the lessons were not instilled into their minds while young.

EARLY DAY SETTLER.

My father settled in Vinita in 1872, the first year Vinita started, and lived in the town for 61 years, to the time of his death, on October 13, 1933. He grew up with the town, and knew its history from the beginning. He was elected as mayor for a number of times, and it became a habit with his fellow townsmen to send people to him who were looking for historical facts, and he could usually give the information, without referring to a note, or going to his literature. He was a great reader, and has volume after volume of old literature about the history of the Cherokee Nation, much of which was left him by his father, Rev. A Nelson Chamberlain. Among them are copies of the New Testament, translated into the

Cherokee language by his father at Pheasant Hill.

My father received his education in the Cherokee National schools, and at Neosho, Missouri.

My mother, Mrs. Madge (Goodykoontz) Chamberlain, was considered to be one of the best read women of her time. She taught school seven years, before her marriage, the last being at Worcester Academy. She died May 23, 1925.

DRILLED FOR CIVIL WAR.

In the fall of 1864 my father went to Fort Gibson, where he tried to join the army, but was too young. He was taken south, however, with an exchange of federal prisoners, where he, with a number of other boys under military age, began the organization of a company, which was drilled and made ready for service, but the end of the conflict came, and peace was declared before they saw service.

Old RELICS.

I have one relic left by my grand-parents, Rev. A Nelson Chamberlain and wife. It is a little Rosewood Parlor chair, which has been kept in good condition for three generations.

I also have all of my father's literature and books, including a number of New Testaments, translated into the Cherokee language, which I prize very highly.